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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidānce Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: ENZYMATIC DEGRADATION OF COTTON FIBRES: EFFECT OF PROTEIN CROSS-LINKING AND THE USE OF DEGRADATION TO CHARACTERIZE FIBERS OF PLANTS OF DIFFERENT GENETIC BACKGROUNDS

(57) Abstract: Specific extraction of the oligomers from cotton fibers can be: achieved by a 24-hr incubation at 37°C with trypsin, chymotrypsin, proteinase K or pepsin, followed by a second 24-hr incubation at 37°C with cellulase (*Trichoderma reesei*) or β-glucosidase. Alternatively, samples were first subjected to cellulase or β-glucosidase treatment followed by the protease. The residual material is then treated with 0.5N HCI at 100°C and the extracts analyzed. Fibers treated with cellulase: followed by protease disintegrated and appeared as a cloudy solution, while the fibers treated with protease followed by cellulase retained their structural identity. This analysis reveals striking differences between cotton fibers from different varieties with respect to their susceptibility to enzymatic degradation. This protocol can be used to identify biochemical characteristics, which can then be correlated with genetic markers for advances in plant breeding.

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A. CLASSI IPC 7	D06M13/432 D06M16/00 G01N30/ C12N9/76	00 G01N33/36 C1	2N9/42
According to	o International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classific	eation and IPC	
B. FIELDS	SEARCHED		
Minimum do IPC 7	ocumentation searched (classification system followed by classificate D06M G01N D21C C12N	ion symbols)	
Documenta	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that	such documents are included in the field	ds searched
Electronic d	ata base consulted during the international search (name of data ba	ase and, where practical, search terms i	Ised)
EPO-In	ternal, PAJ, WPI Data		
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		<del></del>
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the re	levant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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X	WO 99/35491 A (MURRAY ALLEN K) 15 July 1999 (1999-07-15) claims 4-6		1-3
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Furti	her documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are li	sted in annex.
° Special ca	ategories of cited documents :	NTN leased a second and the second and the	1-A
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Date of the	actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international	il search report
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Name and r	mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,	Authorized officer	,
	Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Koegler-Hoffman	n. S



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ernational application No. PCT/US 03/00753

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
Claims Nos.:     because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
see additional sheet
1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. X No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-3
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US 03 \( D0753 \)

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-3

A method of improving fabric properties comprising treating cotton fibers with a chemical reagent which forms covalent bonds with amino groups present within the fibers

2. claims: 4-13

A method of enzymatically degrading cotton fibers to yield essentially pure cellulose comprising the steps of sequentially treating the fibers first with cellulase and then with protease

A method of charcterizing cotton fiber cell walls comprising the steps of specific enzyme degradation in sequential steps utilizing cellulase and protease.



### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

In Jonal Application No PCT/US 03/00753

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